

REMARKS

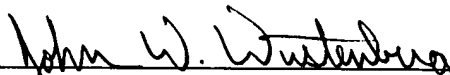
The Notice Of Allowance And Fee(s) Due mailed July 12, 2004, has been reviewed. Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-31.

The application as filed did not contain a cross-reference in the specification declaring that the application was a continuation of the then co-pending application Serial No. 09/977,168 filed October 12, 2001. However, the signed Utility Patent Application Transmittal submitted with the application stated that the application was a continuation of prior application number 09/977,168 assigned to Examiner Frank Tsay of group art unit 3672. The United States Patent and Trademark Office has treated the present application as a continuation of application Serial No. 09/977,168 as evidenced by the Filing Receipt mailed October 28, 2003, United States Patent Application Publication No. US 2004/0020635 A1 published on February 5, 2004, and Examiner's Tsay examination of the application.

If deemed necessary by the United States Patent and Trademark Office to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.78 and 35 U.S.C. 120, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to admit this amendment. Applicant is also filing concurrently herewith a Petition to Claim Benefit Under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) of a Prior Copending Nonprovisional Application or International Application Designating the United States of America.

Respectfully submitted,
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Applicant

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